

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-13

AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /121 W
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R 041630Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0701

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCXGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 4262

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HO, ES

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENTS OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

REF: GUATEMALA 4210 (NOTAL)

1. CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ AND PRESIDENT MOLINA ARRIVED IN GUATEMALA EARLY MORNING SEPTEMBER 1 AND, FLANKING PRESIDENT ARANA, PARTICIPATED IN CEREMONIES MARKING HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF ESCUELA POLITECNICA. ATMOSPHERE EARLY IN VISIT AS THE VISITING PRESIDENTS ACCOMPANIED PRESIDENT ARANA ON TO THE BALCONY OF NATIONAL PALACE TO VIEW PARADE SEEMED SOMEWHAT STRAINED, BUT THE VISIT ENDED THE NEXT MORNING WITH A PUBLIC ABRAZO BETWEEN THE TWO JUST PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRFIELD. LOPEZ AND MOLINA LUNCHEd PRIVATELY WITH ARANA AFTER THE CEREMONIES ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND PRESUMABLY HAD GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO EACH OTHER.

2. IN PUBLIC SPEECHES AT THE POLITECNICA, LOPEZ STUCK PRETTY MUCH TO CONGRATULATING GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES AND GOVERNMENT ON CENTENNIAL. HOWEVER MOLINA EVOKED BURST OF
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APPLAUSE WHEN, NEAR END OF HIS SPEECH, HE TURNED TOWARDS

LOPEZ AND SAID HE WANTED TO REPEAT TO HIM WHAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID TO A HONDURAN MINISTER--THAT AS FAR AS SALVADOR WAS CONCERNED, "YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW, HONDURAS HAS BEEN, IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE SISTER REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS."

3. GUATEMALANS SEEM VERY SELF SATISFIED ABOUT ARANA'S SUCCESS IN BRINGING THE TWO PRESIDENTS TOGETHER PUBLICLY. NUMBERS OF GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS HAVE BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY PRAISED ARANA FOR HIS "COUP" IN ACHIEVING THE MEETING. THE SUCCESSFUL GAMBIT MAY TAKE SOME OF THE STING OUT OF THE FACT THAT THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR ARE TO TAKE PLACE IN MEXICO(GUATEMALA 4127).

4. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THE PRIVATE SESSION BETWEEN MOLINA, LOPEZ AND ARANA WENT, OR WHAT (IF ANYTHING) PRACTICAL WAS ACCOMPLISHED. FONMIN ARENALES, IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION SATURDAY NIGHT, TOLD ME THE TALK HAD "GONE VERY WELL," AND PROMISED TO GIVE US SOME OF THE DETAILS WHEN HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY.

DREYFUSS

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